

Port Security Unit 301

June 2006



Monthly Newsletter

Commanding Officers Corner

To PSU 301 and their families: The past two years since we had our first drill weekend (April 2004) have gone by amazingly fast. The drill weekends have seemed at time to be a real whirlwind. Typical military: hurry up and wait and then rush, rush, rush. However, we have accomplished a great deal and we've done it in a quality manner. I am convinced that when PSU 301 does a mission, it will be done effectively, efficiently and safely. The entire world changed on 9/11/01, and the CG was impacted by that in no small way. The stand-up of PSU 301 was in direct relation to 9/11.



We had marching orders to get ready to go, and to do it in short order. Much less time than would normally be allotted. I am honored to serve with all of you. The dedication to mission, the enormous amount of extra time that you've spent to get qualifications, the many days away from home training, the early morning starts and late night finishes -- it makes me very, very proud to be able to say I'm in the same unit. This is an exciting time to be a member of the United States Coast Guard. It's a time unlike anything in the past, and you have shown that you've got what it takes and you've answered the call to duty. Again, I cannot say how proud I am to serve with you at this important time in our history.

Just as importantly, please share this with your families -- the sacrifices they are making to support the mission are very, very much appreciated. The extra load they have to carry when we're off training at SMTC and drilling on the Cape is not insignificant, but it is greatly appreciated.

I hope that this newsletter turns out to be a success and helps spread the word as to what is going on and when. If you have any suggestions for improvements, please pass them along to ENS O'Donnell --- and a BZ to him for putting this first issue together -- fine job.

Sincerely,

Steve Little
CDR, USCGR
Commanding Officer
Port Security Unit 301



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Commandant's Intent



Admiral Thad W. Allen assumed the duties of the 23rd Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard on May 25th, 2006.

To the Men and Women of the Coast Guard:

I am deeply honored and humbled to serve you and the American people as the 23rd Coast Guard Commandant. I pledge you my passion, devotion, and energy to ensure you have the best possible tools, support, and leadership to carry out your missions, wherever you sit in our Service.

Situational Assessment:

Let me be frank and very clear: We operate in a strategic environment that has changed dramatically in the past five years and will continue to change. This requires continuous adaptation from the Coast Guard. I realize there has been extensive change in our Service in the past decade and the new Sector structure is still "breaking in." However, we live in a world of dynamic threats and hazards and must adapt accordingly. We will not change for change's sake but purposefully, with strategic intent and always focused on our first priority and duty to the Nation: Mission Execution.

Strategic Drivers:

The Global War on Terrorism, Maritime Transportation Security Act, Homeland Security Act, National Strategy for Homeland Security, and the National Strategy for Maritime Security have mandated new areas of mission emphasis for us. Your extraordinarily successful operations in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and to Hurricane Katrina in 2005 significantly elevated our visibility and the demand for our services across all levels of government. Our unique blend of capabilities, competencies and authorities applied across multiple missions are recognized and valued as never before. As a result, expectations for our performance and contributions in routine and crisis operations are greater than ever. Meeting new demands while sustaining the trust and confidence of the public we serve requires us to continually challenge ourselves and improve the way we do business.

My Strategic Vision:

We will focus our entire organization on improving and sustaining Mission Execution. We will do this by structuring our service as a three-pronged force: shore-based operations, maritime operations, and deployable operations. We've taken bold steps forward by creating Sectors for shore-based operations. We've taken equally bold steps by advancing the Deepwater acquisition for maritime presence, patrol, and response. And we've created truly deployable forces. We must now expand our deployable force capabilities and support them with proper doctrine, logistics, training, and exercises. Across all of our forces, we will partner with other services and agencies to integrate our efforts. To further optimize the mission execution of this three-pronged force, we will assess our command and control structure. We will also reevaluate and realign our Mission Support system, including organizational structures, human resources, maintenance, logistics, financial management and information systems. Each of you, regardless of your pay grade, job or rating, or where you sit in our organization, is critical to mission success. You must have the tools and support you need to do your job. We will ensure Coast Guard men and women are the best trained and most versatile workforce in government, equipped with the most capable fleet of multi-mission ships, aircraft, boats and command and control systems available. We will remain aligned with our Department, sister services, and partner agencies. I have already assigned responsibility for a substantial list of specific initiatives to our Flag and SES corps. Information on these initiatives will follow shortly and I will keep you updated on their progress.

We have an extraordinary legacy of excellence as America's Coast Guard. We will build on that legacy. We will rise to meet all the challenges confronting us. Let's turn to. Semper Paratus!

Admiral Thad Allen

Ombudsmans Notes

Here is a word from our two new ombudsmen Maria Harding and Theresa Mackiewicz.

My name is Maria Harding, my husband is MK1 Eric Harding. I am a mother of 2 girls, Maddy 8 and Payton 5. I was Ombudsman of PSU 309 out of Port Clinton, OH. I am also a Navy veteran, serving on The USS Flint and the USS Nimitz. I volunteered for the position as Ombudsman because I have been on both sides of deployment.

I have been through several deployments with my husband and been on deployment myself. Having these experiences I feel gives me a great chance to help out as Ombudsman because I am able to see things from both sides. I am looking forward to working with the unit and their families as Ombudsman. Here are a few helpful websites. Take care and let me know if you need anything else.

Maria Harding

My name is Theresa Mackiewicz, and I am honored to be your new Ombudsman. My husband is SK3 Ben Mackiewicz. With my experience as an educator, I feel that I will be qualified to be your Ombudsman. Teaching makes me a very flexible and patient person. Not only do I have these proficiencies, but what I may lack in Coast Guard knowledge, I will be resourceful enough to help find an answer to any of your questions.

Theresa Mackiewicz

Our Ombudsman can be reached via e-mail at ombudsman301@yahoo.com

www.lifelines.navy.mil

Navy and Marine based site has basic needs such as Housing, deployment, MWR, pay and finances and education.

www.nmfa.org

Outlines benefits to families of military members

www.defenselink.mil

Is a website about military and current events

www.militaryonesource.com

Has a bunch of information. Education, working with kids and money, deployment help, finances, finding a job and how to help deal with military life in general.

New Education Benefits For Activated Reservists

New Education Benefit for Activated Reservists A new education benefit for activated reservists makes certain individuals who were activated after Sept. 11, 2001 eligible either for education benefits or for increased benefits. The FY 05 Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), signed into law by the president Oct. 28, 2004, created the new Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) under Chapter 1607 of Title 10 USC. REAP provides educational assistance to members of the Reserve components called or ordered to active duty in response to a war or national emergency (contingency operation) as declared by the president or Congress. In order to qualify, activated reservists must be mobilized for at least 90 consecutive days in support of a contingency operation and must return to the component of the Ready Reserve from which they were mobilized (e.g. mobilized Selected Reserve members must return to the Selected Reserve, mobilized IRR members must return to either the IRR or Selected Reserve).

Benefits are based on the length of mobilization and are a percentage of the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty (MGIB-AD) rate (currently \$1,034 per month). Under the new program, benefits break down as follows:

- 1. Reservists mobilized for more than 90 days but less than one year are eligible for 40 percent of the active duty rate (maximum of \$413.60 per month for full-time study).*
- 2. Reservists mobilized for 365-729 days are eligible for 60 percent (maximum of \$620.40 per month).*
- 3. Reservists mobilized for more than two years are eligible for 80 percent (maximum of \$827.20 per month).*

Reservists may use the Chapter 1607 benefits as long as they remain within the Reserve component. However, benefits must be terminated if a reservist leaves the Reserve, participates in an ROTC program under Title 10 Section 2107, or upon demobilization, enters a lower status of Ready Reserve (i.e. Selected Reserve to IRR).

The total number of months this benefit can be used cannot exceed 36 (however, the number is 48 months if used in conjunction with other programs (MGIB-AD, MGIB-SR). Reservists can enroll in all education programs (except licensing and certification test reimbursement) that are approved for veterans under the MGIB-AD and REAP program.

For more information, see the GI Bill Veterans Affairs Web site at: <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>, call 1-888-GI-BILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) or visit any VA Regional Office. The Department of Veterans Affairs is working closely with Department of Defense (DOD) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Online Resources

[Port Security Unit 301](#)

[Coast Guard](#)

[Coast Guard Reserve](#)

[Fred's Place](#)

[Directions to PSU 301](#)

[Links](#)

[Readiness](#)

[Direct Access](#)

[Retirement Calculator](#)

Message Traffic

[Reserve Advancement](#)

[Selected Reserve Direct
Commission Results](#)

[Revised Weight and
Fitness Standards](#)

[Reserve Dental Readiness](#)

[Reserve Service Wide
Examination](#)

A BIT OF SALT FROM THE CHIEF



PSCS Eric Johnson

**Port Security Unit 301
Command Senior Chief**

One rule that will supersede all others in the Coast Guard and in life is "TAKE CARE OF YOUR SHIPMATES". This one simple act is contagious but goes against the natural instinct of selfishness. The most basic definition of Shipmate is Friend. Looking after those who we serve with and seeing that their needs are met before our own, will build confidence, trust, and loyalty. Striving to do more for each other rather than more for yourself will pay back in not only personal gains but in the safety of the entire crew. When all is said and done the only important way any of us will be fondly remembered is whether or not we took care of our shipmates.

Upcoming Schedule

JUNE 17-18 DWE

Uniform will be CUU's Saturday all day and Sunday a.m.

A retirement ceremony is scheduled at 1400 Sunday. Uniform will be tropical blue long with combination cover.

JULY 15-16 DWE

Uniform will be ODU's

AUGUST 12-26 ADT

Field exercise at [Battleship Cove](#) Fall River, MA

September 17-18 DWE

Uniform will be desert camouflage

October 21 Reserve Service Wide Examination

PSU 301 News

Congratulations to:

- **PSC Johnson** for being advanced to PSCS
- **PS1 Archambault** for being selected for the Selected Reserve Direct Commission Program
- **DC3 Olson** for being selected Sailor of the Quarter

Fair winds and following seas:

- **PS2 Higgins** - en route to MA National Guard
- **MK3 Magowan**- en route to active duty

From the Editor

Please feel free to submit any ideas to add or change to the newsletter. Each month I will be looking to each department for input. The goal is to have the newsletter sent between drill weekends to keep everyone updated on news and events during the month.

ENS Patrick O'Donnell



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